

springs, or other parts, are knives which open automatically by hand pressure applied to a button or device in the handle of the knife or by operation of inertia, gravity, or both; or

(4) Knives with a detachable blade that is propelled by a spring-operated mechanism, and components thereof.

(b) *Insignificant preliminary preparation*. “Insignificant preliminary preparation” means preparation with the use of ordinarily available tools, instruments, devices, and materials by one having no special manual training or skill for the purpose of modifying blade heels, relieving binding parts, altering spring restraints, or making similar minor alterations which can be accomplished in a relatively short period of time.

(c) *Utilitarian use*. “Utilitarian use” includes but is not necessarily limited to use:

(1) For a customary household purpose;

(2) For usual personal convenience, including grooming;

(3) In the practice of a profession, trade, or commercial or employment activity;

(4) In the performance of a craft or hobby;

(5) In the course of such outdoor pursuits as hunting and fishing; and

(6) In scouting activities.

[T.D. 71-243, 36 FR 18859, Sept. 23, 1971, as amended by T.D. 90-50, 55 FR 28192, July 10, 1990]

#### § 12.96 Imports unrestricted under the Act.

(a) *Common and special purpose knives*. Imported knives with a blade style designed for a primary utilitarian use, as defined in § 12.95(c), shall be admitted to unrestricted entry provided that in condition as entered the imported knife is not a switchblade knife as defined in § 12.95(a)(1). Among admissible common and special purpose knives are jackknives and similar standard pocketknives, special purpose knives, scout knives, and other knives equipped with one or more blades of such single edge nonweapon styles as clip, skinner, pruner, sheep foot, spey, coping, razor, pen, and cuticle.

(b) *Weapons with fixed blades*. Importations of certain articles having a

fixed unexposed or exposed blade are not within the prohibition of 15 U.S.C. 1241 through 1245. However, upon release by Customs, possession of these admissible articles which include such weapons as sword canes, camel whips, swords, sheath knives, machetes and similar devices that may be capable of use as weapons may be in violation of State or municipal laws.

[T.D. 71-243, 36 FR 18860, Sept. 23, 1971, as amended by T.D. 90-50, 55 FR 28192, July 10, 1990]

#### § 12.97 Importations contrary to law.

Importations of switchblade knives, except as permitted by 15 U.S.C. 1244, are importations contrary to law and are subject to forfeiture under 19 U.S.C. 1595a(c).

[T.D. 90-50, 55 FR 28192, July 10, 1990]

#### § 12.98 Importations permitted by statutory exceptions.

The importation of switchblade knives is permitted by 15 U.S.C. 1244, when:

(a) Imported pursuant to contract with a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States;

(b) Imported by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States or any member or employee thereof acting in the performance of his duty; or

(c) A switchblade knife, other than a ballistic knife, having a blade not exceeding 3 inches in length is in the possession of and is being transported on the person of an individual who has only one arm.

[T.D. 71-243, 36 FR 18860, Sept. 23, 1971, as amended by T.D. 90-50, 55 FR 28192, July 10, 1990]

#### § 12.99 Procedures for permitted entry.

(a) *Declaration required*. The entry of switchblade knives, the importation of which is permitted under § 12.98 shall be accompanied by a declaration, in duplicate, of the importer or consignee stating the facts of the import transaction as follows:

(1) *Importation pursuant to Armed Forces contract*. (i) The names of the contracting Armed Forces branch and its supplier;